

KEYLESS CAR THEFT



Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key comes within a short-range of the car.

“Relay theft” occurs when a device is used to trick the car into thinking the key is nearby, unlocking the car and allowing the ignition to start.



Thatcham
Research



HOW TO PREVENT “RELAY THEFT”

Use a signal-blocking pouch

Signal-blocking pouches are sometimes called Faraday bags or RFID signal blockers/shields. These pouches prevent the signal from your key being captured by electronic devices. It's unclear whether putting your keys in a tin box prevents potential thieves grabbing the signal. Our advice is to choose a product that has been independently tested and approved by Secured by Design.

Keep keys safe

Avoid leaving your keys near the front door as fishing for keys through the letterbox is a prominent method of stealing them. Grabbing the signal is easier for thieves if the keys are near the front door.

Disable your key fob

Some key fobs have a switch to turn the wireless signal off. Check your vehicle manual or ask your dealer for advice.

Use an anti-theft device

Consider using a physical anti-theft device like a steering wheel lock or wheel clamp. Car thieves want to get away quickly without being caught so prefer not to have to attack physical security devices.

Install a tracker

Tracker systems can increase the chances of recovering your vehicle if its stolen. Many systems activate once a vehicle is stolen and track it via GPS and other systems. Secured by Design can offer advice on the best system for your vehicle.

Closed circuit television (CCTV)

As an alternative, consider installing CCTV which can be linked to your television or video to view your drive. If you do decide to use CCTV it is important to read the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) advice on domestic CCTV systems.

Sold Secure: www.soldsecure.com

Thatcham: www.thatcham.org

Secured by Design: www.securedbydesign.com

Wiltshire Police: www.wiltshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/